

Abstract 505

TITLE: Collaborative Approaches for Strengthening Pre-Service HIV/AIDS Prevention Programs at HBCUs

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ISSUE: HIV infection rates are growing among African-American youth. Concerted HIV prevention and health promotion efforts are needed at the post-secondary level. Pre-service health professionals need training to effectively deliver HIV prevention messages to African-American youth and other ethnic minority groups.

SETTING: Privately funded 4-year HBCUs in Charlotte, North Carolina; Nashville, Tennessee; and Austin, Texas targeting pre-service African-American health professionals.

PROJECT: The United Negro College Fund HIV/AIDS Orientation and Professional Education Program (HOPE) is a new initiative funded by CDC/DASH to address the growing rates of HIV infection among African-American youths. The program is designed to strengthen campus HIV education curricular activities by working with faculty who are preparing students entering into the health care profession. A major component of the HOPE Program is the development of model approaches for HIV/AIDS education and prevention. Towards this end, UNCF initiated a competitive grants program for member institutions. Fisk, Huston-Tillotson, and Johnson C. Smith are among the nine UNCF institutions awarded 1-year grants of \$10,000 to develop model strategies at the pre-service level for reaching young African Americans with HIV/AIDS information. These institutions are working individually and collectively to add to the field of HIV prevention education and research by the developing effective strategies to reach African-American youth. This presentation will highlight their models.

RESULTS: HOPE Program institutional partners have increased the number of courses into which HIV/AIDS information is infused; trained pre-health professionals to make HIV/AIDS presentations in the community; conducted needs assessment to target HIV prevention efforts in the community; and developed curricular modules.

LESSONS LEARNED:

1. Strategies that incorporate collaboration between post-secondary institutions and organizations in the surrounding community can strengthen HIV prevention efforts.
2. Conducting a community assessment is important in identifying services, stakeholders, resources and potential partners to strengthen HIV prevention education programs.
3. Interdisciplinary curricular approaches in HIV prevention education provide a comprehensive approach in reaching college youth with HIV/AIDS information.

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